



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Seventh session

Summary record of the first part (public)** of the 64th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 16 April 2012, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. McCallum

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* As of the seventh session (April 2012), the summary records of the meetings of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities bear the symbol CRPD/C/SR followed by the number of the meeting.

** No summary record was prepared for the second part (closed) of the meeting.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Chairperson** declared open the seventh session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Statement by the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

2. **Ms. Kang** (Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights) said that since September 2011, the human rights system had continued to expand. Nine countries had ratified or adhered to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, bringing the number of States parties to the Convention to 112, and 5 countries had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention, bringing the number of States parties to that instrument to 67. The Committee on Enforced Disappearances, which was the tenth human rights treaty body, had held its first session in November 2011. Moreover, the General Assembly had adopted the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, which had been signed by 20 States on 28 February 2012.

3. The treaty body strengthening process had also moved forward. The appeal launched by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to all stakeholders at the end of 2009 had led to consultations among various actors on ways to improve the treaty system. The recommendations and conclusions that had emerged from those consultations had been compiled in an outcome document, which was unofficial and only available in English, at the meeting on strengthening the human rights treaty body system held in Dublin in November 2011, known as the Dublin II meeting, and which had been approved by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Rights of the Child among others. During the last consultation with States parties on treaty body strengthening held in New York in April 2012, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had reiterated that, given the expansion of the treaty body system, the resources allocated to it were no longer sufficient. Therefore, it was imperative to endow those bodies with the resources necessary for them to fulfil their mandate.

4. The growing commitment of States was also attested by General Assembly resolution 66/254 of 23 February 2012 concerning the establishment of an intergovernmental process on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights deemed it necessary for States parties to seek practical solutions to the challenges posed by the treaty bodies. She hoped that the process would be constructive and preserve the independence of the bodies.

5. During the twenty-third meeting of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies in June 2011, participants had called for the drafting of guidelines on the independence of treaty body members. A preliminary version had been drafted and distributed to treaty body experts. The text, which had been revised to incorporate proposed amendments, would be examined in June 2012.

6. Also in 2011, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 66/229, whereby it had decided to grant the Committee an additional week of meeting time per year and had invited the Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to engage in a dialogue with the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions, on the work of the Committee. The General Assembly had also adopted resolution 66/124, whereby it had decided to convene a one-day High-level Meeting of the General Assembly, at the level of Heads of State and Government, on 23 September 2013, which would result in a concise, action-oriented outcome document in support of the aims of the

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities.

7. On 8 December 2011, the six constituent entities of the United Nations partnership for the rights of persons with disabilities had set up a special partnership trust fund to support the full implementation of the Convention through capacity-building and the establishment of partnerships at the regional, national and global levels. In March 2012, the partnership had held its first meeting in New York. Decisions had been taken concerning its strategic and operational framework, its programme of work, the composition of its governing body and the committee responsible for managing the multi-donor fund.

8. The Human Rights Council had also been very active in the area of the rights of persons with disabilities. In March 2012, the Council's fourth interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities had focused on the participation of those persons in political life. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had introduced the thematic study by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on participation in political and public life by persons with disabilities (A/HRC/19/36). The Council had also adopted resolution 19/11 on the right of persons with disabilities to participate in political and public life, in which it had urged States parties to "review any existing exclusion or restriction of political rights for persons with disabilities, including those persons with psychosocial, mental or intellectual disabilities, and to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities". A working group on accessibility had been set up during the review of the activities and the functioning of the Council. The working group was composed of representatives from the Member States of the Council, various departments of the United Nations Secretariat, including OHCHR, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and had already met several times and engaged in wide-ranging consultations, including with the Committee itself. At the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council in March, the working group had submitted its conclusions and recommendations, which had been approved by the President of the Council.

9. She concluded by recalling the full programme of work awaiting the Committee at its seventh session, which included consideration of the initial report of Peru, adoption of lists of issues for three other States parties to the Convention and consideration of the first communication from an individual submitted under the Optional Protocol.

10. **The Chairperson** said that, for the first time, the Committee's public meetings would be broadcast live on the Internet with live subtitling, thanks to the concerted efforts of International Disability Alliance and United Nations Conference Services.

11. **Ms. Cisternas Reyes** asked whether the Dublin II outcome document was to become a binding resolution for the Committees.

12. **Ms. Kang** (Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights) said that the document was not intended to become an official document of the General Assembly; it simply listed the points raised during the previous consultations. However, those points would be reiterated in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which was currently being drafted and was to be submitted to the General Assembly in June 2012.

13. **Mr. Kim Hyung Shik** enquired as to the origin of the trust fund's financial resources and the composition of the aforementioned governing body.

14. **Ms. Kang** (Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights) said that there was no specific directive on the origin or the amount of donations that could be made to the trust

fund. The Committee would have the opportunity to discuss its management and how to make use of its financial resources over the course of the session.

Adoption of the agenda (item 1 of the provisional agenda) (CRPD/C/7/1)

Organizational matters (item 2 of the provisional agenda)

15. **The Chairperson** indicated two minor changes to the programme of work appearing in the annex to the provisional agenda and invited comments from members.

16. **Ms. Yang Jia** said that the long awaited meeting with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which was directly related to article 9 of the Convention, should form an integral part of the Committee's programme of work. Recalling the variable amount of meeting time that had been devoted to consideration of the list of issues pertaining to the reports of China, Hungary and Argentina, she requested that, in future, strict equality be observed in that respect and in relation to the number of rapporteurs for each country. China should be considered as one State and benefit from the same amount of meeting time as the other States being considered, as well as the same number of rapporteurs.

17. **The Chairperson** said that the number of reports submitted by the People's Republic of China, which had included one for China itself and two additional reports for the Special Administrative Regions of Macao and Hong Kong, explained why more meeting time had been devoted to them. As to the meeting with IATA, he asked Mr. Al-Tarawneh, Chairperson of the working group on accessibility, to indicate whether the meeting was to be public or private, explaining that IATA wished it to be held in private.

18. **Mr. Al-Tarawneh** said that he was not opposed to the meeting being open to the general public, provided that the debate remained focused on the matters at hand.

19. **The Chairperson** proposed that the agenda should be adopted, taking into account the amendments proposed by the members of the Committee.

20. *The agenda was adopted.*

21. **Mr. Araya** (Secretary) said that, since the Committee's previous session in September 2011, 10 States had submitted their initial report, namely Ecuador, Germany, Croatia, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Dominican Republic, Turkmenistan, Mongolia, the Cook Islands and, just recently, Kenya, which brought the number of reports awaiting consideration to 25. At the end of 2011, 49 reports had been outstanding.

22. **Mr. Al-Tarawneh** asked what measures were envisaged to encourage the 49 late countries to submit their initial report.

23. **Mr. Kim Hyung Shik** called for the establishment of a provisional timetable indicating the dates on which the reports would be considered.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, disabled persons' organizations and other competent bodies (item 8 of the provisional agenda)

24. **Mr. Sensi** (Adviser on human rights and disability, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) reported on the activities undertaken by OHCHR to promote and protect the human rights of persons with disabilities since the Committee's last session. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 16/15, OHCHR had conducted a thematic study on the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life (A/HRC/19/36), which analysed the relevant provisions of the Convention, highlighted good practices and identified the main obstacles to the equal and effective

participation of persons with disabilities. The study had been made available online, in an accessible format, on the OHCHR disability web page.

25. At the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council, OHCHR had organized an interactive dialogue on the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life, with the aim of highlighting good practices and identifying the main challenges that persisted. At the end of the session, the Council had adopted, without a vote, resolution 19/11, entitled “Rights of persons with disabilities: participation in political and public life” whereby the Council had decided that the next annual debate on the rights of persons with disabilities would be held at its twenty-second session and would focus on the work and employment of persons with disabilities, and had requested OHCHR to prepare a study on that question in anticipation of the debate.

26. **Mr. Langvad**, recalling that the right to participate in political life and the right to vote were among the most fundamental human rights, said that it was in the interests of persons with disabilities, in particular the most vulnerable among them, to ensure that general comment No. 25 of the Human Rights Committee concerning article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was updated so that there could no longer be any justification for depriving a person of their right to participate in political life and their right to vote, simply because they had a disability. The United Nations partnership for the rights of persons with disabilities should establish contact with other human rights bodies with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of general comment No. 25.

27. **Mr. Al-Tarawneh** welcomed the fact that the session would be broadcast on the Internet since such a broadcast could encourage the governments of Middle Eastern countries, and particularly North African countries, where the “Arab spring” had triggered widespread legislative and constitutional reform, to consider the question of the participation of persons with disabilities in political life.

28. **Ms. Cisternas Reyes** enquired about the level of authority of a study conducted by OHCHR and a general comment of the Human Rights Committee and asked how a general comment could be amended.

29. **Mr. Gombos** said that the thematic studies conducted by OHCHR were extremely useful to all actors working to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities. He added that, having participated in a side event organized during the session of the Human Rights Committee, he had found that Committee to be very open to the possibility of working informally with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the measures that should be taken regarding the general comment. Contact could also be established with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

30. **Ms. Yang Jia** welcomed the fact that OHCHR intended to conduct a new thematic study on the work and employment of persons with disabilities. Moreover, noting that 112 countries had acceded to the Convention to date and that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, all countries had to be treated equally, she hoped that the Committee would apply that principle when considering the reports submitted to it.

31. **Ms. Peláez Narváez** requested additional information on the thematic study being conducted by OHCHR on the issue of violence against women and girls and disability.

32. **Mr. Sensi** (Adviser on human rights and disability, OHCHR) recalled that general comment No. 25 had been adopted in 1996, 10 years prior to the adoption of the Convention. Since then, attention had been drawn to inconsistencies with the prohibition of discrimination provided for in article 2, paragraph 1, and article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as with the current conception of democracy. Furthermore, the recent jurisprudence of international and regional human rights mechanisms served to support the argument that restricting the right to vote and to

run as a candidate for an election on account of a psychosocial or intellectual disability ran counter to the current human rights norms governing disability. Given that it was the responsibility of the Human Rights Committee, as a committee of independent experts, to decide what to do with the general comment it had adopted, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights suggested that the Human Rights Committee should consider revising general comment No. 25 of 1996. In addition, it would be useful for the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to focus on that question and to determine the best way to approach the Human Rights Committee.

33. **Ms. Turner** (OHCHR), introducing the thematic study on the issue of violence against women and girls and disability, said that OHCHR had received 78 replies to the questionnaire it had sent out. Those replies could be found on the OHCHR website.

34. The study reviewed the relevant international legal instruments, as well as the comments of the Committee and other human rights bodies, special procedures mandate holders and human rights mechanisms. The report stated that persons with disabilities, both male and female, were exposed to violence and that countries lacked data on violence against women and girls with disabilities. The main factors behind violence against persons with disabilities were the same for both sexes and included prejudice, difficulties in communicating with persons with a sensorial disability, isolation and the social exclusion of persons living in institutions. Furthermore, those factors tended to have similar consequences, such as impunity and the drawing of a veil over the issue, which allowed the phenomenon to persist. However, women experienced disability and violence in a manner specifically linked to their status as women, given that they were exposed more than men to poverty, isolation, low wages and unemployment and that it was more difficult for them to escape such a situation than for men, especially when they were refugees or migrants or belonged to a minority.

35. Generally deprived of sex education, women and girls with disabilities often fell victim to ill-treatment and, in view of the prejudice against persons with disabilities, were unlikely to be believed if they complained. While the life expectancy of women with disabilities was, as a general rule, greater than that of their male counterparts, their rate of morbidity was higher and they were twice as likely to live in an institution. For those reasons, women and girls with disabilities were exposed to the risk of violence in all spheres: in the family, in public or private institutions, at school and within the community. According to European Parliament studies, almost 80 per cent of women with disabilities were victims of violence and were four times more likely to suffer sexual violence than other women. Moreover, 80 per cent of such women living in institutions were exposed to the risk of violence. According to a study conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), children with disabilities were 1.7 times more likely to suffer violence and, while that violence tended to be physical and psychological in nature during childhood, it tended to become sexual in nature at puberty.

36. The study went on to examine the measures taken by the various States. In many countries, the law did not protect persons with a psychosocial disability against treatment being administered without their consent and the guarantee of proper procedures was inadequate. Furthermore, many countries had legislation that allowed women and girls with disabilities to be stripped of their legal capacity. There was in fact no specific protection for that category of individuals; the laws prohibiting gender-based discrimination and domestic violence were insufficient because they overlooked many forms of ill-treatment that persons with disabilities could encounter. Although programmes and policies did exist and States frequently understood the causes of the problem, the efforts made to address it were modest. Information on the measures taken to promote the economic empowerment of women and girls with disabilities was highly inadequate. Certain countries referred to the existence of programmes to promote gender equality and to combat gender-based violence,

which, more often than not, were not accessible to persons with disabilities. Lastly, since they were seldom reported, acts of violence against women and girls with disabilities seldom led to legal action being taken. Moreover, those women and girls encountered great difficulty in accessing justice. Thus, the underlying problem persisted, and the legal and policy instruments failed to make the proper connection between gender and disability.

37. **Ms. Peláez Narváez** asked whether the High Commissioner's study addressed the issues of forced sterilization and forced abortion among women and girls with disabilities, particularly among those who suffered from a mental or psychosocial disability, the response of the legal system to the reports of violence against those women and girls, especially in States that had ratified the Convention, and the growing number of women with disabilities who turned to prostitution.

38. **Ms. Turner** (OHCHR) said that the study did cover the forced sterilization of women and young girls with disabilities, as well as the response — albeit an inadequate one — of the legal system to the violence they suffered, which tended to be played down. While the issue of prostitution among women with disabilities had not been examined in detail, the study did state that disabled women and girls were exposed to sexual exploitation and people trafficking.

39. **Ms. Chagwan** (Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)) said that, in February and March 2012, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) had organized three interactive debates at United Nations Headquarters, one of which had addressed mainstreaming disability in development cooperation policies and programmes. In 2012, the Commission for Social Development had adopted a new resolution on that matter, entitled "Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda".

40. In partnership with the United Nations Information Centre and the Nippon Foundation, DESA was working to organize a gathering of experts in information and communication technology, which would include a special meeting on mainstreaming disability and accessibility in the prevention and management of natural disasters. Moreover, DESA was assisting the Japan Disability Forum in organizing an international forum on disability, accessibility and strategies for preventing natural disasters. It also co-chaired the Interdepartmental Task Force on Accessibility, the purpose of which was to improve disabled access to United Nations buildings.

41. DESA would work closely with OHCHR and the Office of Legal Affairs to provide secretariat services to the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was scheduled to take place in New York in September 2012 and during which members of the Committee would be elected. DESA was also taking steps to ensure that the disability perspective was included in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), during which it would conduct a discussion session on the inclusion of the disability perspective in international sustainable development programmes. Lastly, DESA was preparing two reports for the attention of the Secretary-General, one of which covered development and disability mainstreaming and the other, the status of the Convention. Both reports would be submitted at the next session of the General Assembly.

42. **Mr. Lanteri** (World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)), summarizing recent developments concerning the WIPO Visually Impaired Persons Initiative, recalled that the initiative was aimed at improving access to copyright protected works for persons with print disabilities and that it comprised two tracks: one normative, the other operational or technical. With regard to the first track, the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights had made significant progress on the issue of limitations and exceptions in favour of the persons concerned. At its July 2012 session, it would address the role of authorized entities that acted as trusted intermediaries in the exchange of accessible files

and the nature of the instrument to be adopted (a simple recommendation or a binding treaty). Discussions would focus on the working document on an international instrument on limitations and exceptions for visually impaired persons/persons with print disabilities (SCCR/23/7), which had been adopted by the Standing Committee at its twenty-third session.

43. The fact that several States members had started to hold informal consultations had been an encouraging development. Those States members had included Brazil and the United States of America, which had recently reaffirmed their commitment to developing an international instrument, under the auspices of WIPO, which would ensure that copyright was not a barrier to equal access to information, culture or education for visually impaired persons.

44. The Visually Impaired Persons Initiative called for specific operational and technical arrangements and WIPO was leading a Stakeholders' Platform to put those arrangements in place. The Stakeholders' Platform coordinated two major projects, namely the Trusted Intermediary Global Accessible Resources project (TIGAR) and the Enabling Technologies Framework (ETF). The TIGAR project was aimed at facilitating the cross-border exchange of copyright protected works in accessible formats between libraries by developing a network of trusted intermediaries able to exchange accessible resources in a fast and efficient fashion. Thus far, 11 trusted intermediaries had joined the network and more than 24 right holders, who were mainly publishers, had signed the TIGAR fast-track memorandum of understanding.

45. With regard to the ETF project, WIPO was working closely with the DAISY Consortium to develop technical standards, the implementation of which constituted an essential first step in making e-publications more accessible. The Stakeholders' Platform, in collaboration with EDItEUR, had also developed best practice guidelines for publishers, which were available in six languages (English, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish) on the website of the Visually Impaired Persons Initiative (www.visionip.org).

46. The World Intellectual Property Organization thanked the Committee for its efforts to foster understanding among States parties regarding the importance of normative issues, as well as its help in making all stakeholders understand that the various activities of the Visually Impaired Persons Initiative were of a complementary nature. An adequate legal framework was needed to ensure that persons with print disabilities could fully enjoy the limitations and exceptions in their favour. Moreover, there was a need for an efficient infrastructure that granted visually impaired persons greater access to copyright protected works in a more accessible format.

47. **The Chairperson** said that the Committee looked forward to the adoption of a treaty addressing that issue, but was aware that much work still needed to be done.

48. **Ms. Pratt** (World Health Organization (WHO)) said that the launch of the World Report on Disability on 9 June 2011 in New York had been followed up with national launches in more than 30 countries, with the aim of bringing policymakers and persons with disabilities together to discuss priority issues and to agree on the best way forward. The Report was now currently available in French and Spanish and was being translated into Chinese and Arabic. The summary report was available in all official languages of the United Nations and both the main and summary reports were available in accessible formats. The World Health Organization encouraged the signatories to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to read the report and to draw on the examples of good practice it contained with a view to improving policies and programmes supporting the Convention.

49. The World Health Organization was currently developing rehabilitation guidelines to provide advice to governments and other actors on how to develop, expand and improve

rehabilitation services in line with the recommendations contained in the World Report on Disability, especially those concerning the integration and decentralization of those services within health systems. WHO would be interested to know what role the Committee planned to play in developing those guidelines, given their particular relevance to articles 25 and 26 of the Convention. For example, the Committee could participate in the work of the Guideline Development Group or in a general day of discussion.

50. WHO was also working with the World Bank and other partners to develop a model disability survey to promote the collection of data on disability at the national level. While many countries and international organizations were making considerable efforts to improve the collection of such data, there was no standardized instrument that could be used to make international comparisons or to monitor the implementation of the Convention in States parties. Given that an expert meeting was to be held later that year, WHO would be interested to know whether any member of the Committee was responsible for data on disability and could take part in that meeting.

51. WHO and the International Spinal Cord Society would publish a report entitled "*International perspectives on spinal cord injury*" in late 2012, which would address issues such as health care, accessible environments, education and employment, and would include recommendations on how to improve the services provided to persons with such injuries and promote their participation in society.

52. **Ms. Moody** (United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)) said that, with a view to improving cooperation and coordination in activities concerning children with disabilities, UNICEF had consulted numerous stakeholders with the aim of forging a global partnership to promote the full and equitable inclusion of children and adolescents with disabilities in all development initiatives. The Conference of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was scheduled to take place in New York in September 2012, would be followed by a meeting devoted to raising awareness of the serious problems facing children with disabilities in order to devise a strategy to assist States Members in implementing the measures recommended in the 2011 Report of the Secretary-General on the Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/66/230), which had focused on the rights of children with disabilities. The meeting in question, which was scheduled to take place on 14 and 15 September 2012, should make it possible to formulate a strategy and common principles, as well as a model for concerted action at the regional, national and global levels.

53. **Ms. Richler** (International Disability Alliance), while welcoming the fact that her organization was able to assist in broadcasting the Committee's public meetings on the Internet, raised the question of the accessibility of such broadcasts to persons who were deaf or hard of hearing; she advocated the combined use of professional sign language interpretation and live subtitling during the Committee's meetings. Referring to the Dublin II outcome document, she invited the Committee to hold an in-depth discussion on the recommendations contained therein, particularly those concerning follow-up, individual communications and harmonization of treaty body procedures. Following the example of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in January 2012 and that of the Human Rights Committee in March 2012, the Committee could also express its support for the proposals contained in the Dublin II outcome document.

54. The International Disability Alliance suggested that the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities should adopt a joint declaration on the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life, which would serve to update general comment No. 25 of the Human Rights Committee on participation in public affairs and the right to vote. Likewise, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities should participate in the workshop on mental health in detention that was to be held by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture in June 2012.

55. **Ms. Mulligan** (International Disability and Development Consortium) said that the Consortium comprised 23 member organizations and carried out many cooperation and coordination activities. In particular, the Consortium was participating in the work of the Human Rights Council, by contributing to the OHCHR study on article 32 of the Convention and proposing low-cost solutions to accessibility issues, and in the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, by supporting the call for the production by the Statistical Commission of statistics disaggregated by disability. The Consortium was also sponsoring a blind Ecuadorian who was due to speak at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012. The Consortium planned to provide input to future reports of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming disability issues and on the implementation of the Convention. Moreover, through its member organizations around the world, it supported the global partnership set up by UNICEF.

56. **Ms. Rau Barriga** (Human Rights Watch) commended the Committee on its openness to civil society and encouraged it to continue consulting NGOs and organizations for persons with disabilities, which were best placed to report on the situation of those persons. Endorsing the proposal made by the International Disability Alliance that the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities should prepare a joint declaration with the Human Rights Committee, which would update the latter's general comment No. 25, Human Rights Watch encouraged the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to join the other treaty bodies in the effort to align the various interpretations of relevant instruments with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

57. In its work with persons with disabilities, Human Rights Watch gave priority to issues related to the legal capacity of those persons, their right to health, including mental and reproductive health, and violations of the rights of women and children with disabilities. The organization was also contributing to the work of the Committee by means of a report on the right to participate in political life in Peru, scheduled for release in May 2012, and a report on the situation of persons with psychosocial disabilities in Ghana and West Africa, scheduled for release in August 2012. Subsequently, Human Rights Watch planned to focus its activities on violence against women and girls with disabilities, in particular those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, on barriers to education and on hate crimes targeting persons with disabilities.

The first part (public) of the meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.